

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Regarding the Claims in General:

Claims 2-9, 11, and 13-21 are now pending. Claims 1, 10, and 12 have been replaced by new claims 19-21 which have been written to better highlight distinguishing features of the invention, and conforming amendments to the dependency of claims 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 13-14, and 16-18 have also been made. In addition, claims 3, 5-7, 15, and 18 have been amended to conform to customary idiomatic English and U.S. claim practice, and in some instances, have been reformatted for added clarity.

Regarding the Prior Art Rejections:

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-4, 8, and 10 through 16 were rejected as being unpatentable over Young U.S. Patent No. 6,411,315 (Young) in view of Kimura U.S. Patent No. 4,706,078 (Kimura), claim 5 was rejected as unpatentable over Young in view of Kimura, and Shinbori U.S. Patent No. 4,661,000 (Shinbori), claim 6 was rejected as unpatentable over Young in view of Kimura, and Halahmi U.S. Patent No. 6,684,088 (Halahmi), claim 9 was rejected as unpatentable over Young in view of Kimura and Halahmi, claim 7 was rejected as unpatentable over Young in view of Kimura, Halahmi, and Shinbori, and claims 17 and 18 were rejected as unpatentable over Young in view of Kimura and Halahmi. All of these rejections, which are based on an overly broad and incorrect interpretation of Young, are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to portable terminal equipment designed to transmit and receive e-mail over a wireless network. As will be appreciated, the receiving terminal equipment might be another communication device constructed according to the present invention, or one of an entirely different kind, such as a standard desktop PC, a laptop computer, a cellular phone with messaging capability or some other kind of wire-connected or wireless device. As will be further appreciated, each of these devices could have a display capacity and display format entirely different from that of the present invention both as to

The user of sending terminal equipment constructed according to the present invention might under some circumstances wish to be sure that the format of the message being transmitted can be read conveniently on the display device associated with the communication unit of the receiving party. To accommodate this, the present invention provides a formatting preview capability.

In contrast, the device disclosed in the Young patent is specifically described as an electronic typewriter. As the Examiner will appreciate, an electronic typewriter, as the term was understood at the time the application for the Young patent was filed, is a word processing device of somewhat limited device having an input keyboard, an output printer, and a small monitor usually capable of displaying only one line of type at a time. Moreover, electronic typewriters are not intended as substitutes for personal computers. Nor do they provide Internet or e-mail capabilities.

The Young patent differs from the present invention in another important respect: Young is concerned about providing a display to assist the operator in locating a line of type as it will appear on a printed page of the printer associated with the typewriter itself, or perhaps with a network printer connected to the electronic typewriter over a network of some kind. Moreover, the print format will be selectable by the user of the typewriter, and Young's device allows the user to see how a single line of type being produced will appear on the printed page by providing what the patent refers to as a scalable edit window.

Kimura discloses a print preview function for a text preparing apparatus , but does not clearly specify the type of application to which it is directed. However, from the introductory description, it appears that Kimura envisions a device having limited display capabilities. Kimura states that replacing characters with an array of dots is conventionally used to facilitate previewing text layout in such text preparing devices, and proposes to improve on this by replacing different kinds of characters (e.g., upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols, etc.) with different dot patterns.

The Examiner suggests that incorporating the text previewing of Kimura in Young's electronic typewriter would have been obvious to save space in Young's display. However, in Young, only one line of type is displayed at a time, whereas in Kimura, at least three lines are

displayed (see Fig. 4), and it is far from clear that there is any need to save space in Young's single line display, or that there would be of any other benefit from combining the references. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not demonstrated a legitimate motivation in the prior art to combine the teachings of the two references.

In any event, even if it assumed for purposes of discussion that incorporating the dot substitution capability of Kimura into the device of Young would be obvious, is nevertheless clear that the resulting device would not meet the terms of the claims of the present invention.

In particular, claim 19, which has been substituted for original claim 1 is directed to a wireless communication device comprising character input means, display means, wireless transmitting and receiving means, and a control unit programmed to implement the functions of creating, displaying and sending/receiving e-mail, all of which are housed in a compact unit for convenient portable use.

From the foregoing alone, it is apparent that no combination of Young and Kimura can possibly meet the terms of claim 1. Neither patent teaches or suggests a portable wireless terminal device as that term is understood by those skilled in the art. Nor is there any disclosure or suggestion that the devices of these patents are designed for or capable of e-mail communication.

Claim 19 further specifies that:

the control unit includes preview control means that previews a character string prepared for transmission as e-mail to receiving terminal equipment having a display format which is independent of the display format of the sending terminal equipment . . .

Both Young and Kimura are designed to interface with printing units which will output the text produced by the word processing capabilities of the respective devices. The formatting of these printing devices is not, and in practical fact, can not be independent of the format of the typewriter display. The user must have the ability to select the print format, and according to the patent, editing window 30 is scalable according to the print format.

Nor do either of the other secondary references overcome the deficiencies in Young and Kimura. Shinbori relates to a separate layout display device for a small capacity portable printer associated with a portable electronic typewriter or word processor. This display unit

appears to be separate from the display device for the rest of the unit. There is no suggestion here of application to wireless e-mail communication, or for previewing a message to be sent to a receiving terminal device having a display format which is independent of that of the sending terminal device.

Halahmi is concerned facilitating *reception* of e-mail on a wireless communication device by selective downloading of available messages, and commencement of display of a message being downloaded before downloading has been completed. Although Halahmi teaches formatting of incoming messages, there is nothing in this patent about previewing a message which is being composed for transmission before the message is sent so the format will be convenient for display at the receiving terminal. A person skilled in the art would have no motivation to combine the technology disclosed in this reference with the technology of Young or Kimura, neither of which have any need to select a remotely stored message for downloading, or to parse or format an incoming message for local display.

Claim 20, which has replaced original claim 10, focuses on another aspect of the pre-transmission previewing capabilities of the invention, namely partial display of the composed message in character form. Thus, claim 20 recites a compact portable communication terminal having input means, display means, a wireless transmitting and receiving unit, and a control unit programmed to implement e-mail functions, but further specifies that:

the control unit includes display processing means that displays characters of a predetermined part of an e-mail being prepared for transmission; and

the display is in a format corresponding to that of a display at terminal equipment to which said e-mail is being sent.

From the discussion of claim 19, it should be apparent that none of the references, either considered singly, or in combination, teach a wireless communication terminal device for producing e-mail to be sent to a receiving terminal, which permits previewing of a predetermined part of an e-mail message being composed in the format of the intended receiving terminal. Thus, claim 20, and dependent claim 11 should be allowed.

Finally, new claim 21 is directed to method features of the aspect of the invention covered by claim 19, and is patentable for all the same reasons. In particular, claim 21 is directed to a method for previewing e-mail being sent from portable terminal equipment which includes the structural elements recited in claim 19. The method comprises the steps of:

replacing each character in a character string inputted for transmission as e-mail with one or a plurality of dots; and

previewing said character string in which said each character is replaced with the dot or dots in the display format of the receiving terminal equipment.

None of the references, whether considered singly or together disclose or suggest replacement of characters in an e-mail character string with an array of dots, or previewing the array of dots in the display format of receiving terminal equipment to which an e-mail is to be sent. Claim 21, and dependent claims 13-18 should therefore also be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 7, 2005

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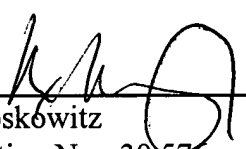
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